



# Embassy of the United States of America

## Public Affairs Section

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November 9, 2005

### PRESS RELEASE

## The United States supports school renovation in El Alto

More than 1,400 children and adolescents will benefit from the renovation of the Unidad Educativa de la Primera Brigada Aerea (Educational Unit of the First Air Brigade), a public school on the Bolivian Air Force First Air Brigade Base, in the city of El Alto. The remodeling was possible with a donation from the Southern Command of the United States, which is administered by the Military Group of the U.S. Embassy.

The school renovation, which began in August, will be dedicated on Thursday, November 10, by the U.S. Ambassador to Bolivia and the Commander of the Bolivian Air Force. This project was funded with a grant of \$50,000, from the U.S. Southern Command under its Humanitarian Assistance Program. The project included the repairing and remodeling of several classrooms in the school, one of the largest public educational institutions in the city. The renovation included the painting of walls, inside and outside, the remodeling of bathrooms and the repairing of roofs.

More than 1,400 students from several regions in El Alto, including from the town of Viacha, attend the school. The school has 45 classrooms.

This renovation program seeks to improve the quality of teaching in El Alto, in order to directly benefit the Alteño children. This effort is the first in a series of projects aimed at improving the schools in the region.

The Humanitarian Assistance program of the U.S. Southern Command funds projects that improve infrastructure, basic sanitation, and other areas requiring assistance. The goal of these humanitarian activities is to assist low-income and needy populations. They also highlight the role of the Armed Forces in supporting civil society.

The U.S. Southern Command and the Military Group will continue to support the Ministry of National Defense, the Armed Forces and the Vice Ministry of Civil Defense in humanitarian assistance programs.

In this framework of bilateral cooperation, the Bolivian Armed Forces and the Neighborhood Associations of El Alto, supported by the United States, recently developed a program that provided free medical attention to almost 8,000 vulnerable and low-income citizens in El Alto.

The U.S. Embassy has a strong commitment to El Alto and provides support not only through these kinds of joint activities, with the Air Force, but also through cooperation with other institutions representing the municipality and civil society.

For instance, several projects of the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) create economic opportunities through support to micro credit institutions; improve infrastructure; generate jobs through food-for-work programs; install gas and water connections, generate increased exports and exports-related jobs; and improve the health conditions of families. All these projects promote community participation in the design and implementation stages.

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